

WM. J. OSBORN, WM. H. ADAMS,
(EDITORS.)

LEAVENWORTH,

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1854.

The Levee.

Mr. Cunningham, the Superintendent of the Town Company's works, has had a large force for several days past, engaged in grading down our levee. A portion only will be prepared for present use, the remainder to be improved and the whole McAdamsized during the fall and winter. An outlay of two hundred dollars, exclusive of rockwork, will prepare a landing a quarter of a mile in extent, equal in convenience to any portion of that of St. Louis. The course of the River at this point and for several miles above and below us is due south, without any perceptible bend. There is sufficient water at this time for the largest class steamboat to land at any point in the mile that our town extends along the river. A good landing can at small expense be made at any place within these limits. We have no hesitation in saying that the same extent so admirably adapted by nature for a great commerce can no where else be found on the Missouri. The course of the river for miles is such as to give us every assurance of permanency. The great abundance of rock will facilitate very much the improvement of our landing and the paving and McAdamsing our streets. There is hardly any difficult grades to be made in either. There are few spots in our limits where foundations could not at once be laid down, and in the most broken, only a trifling excavation will be necessary.

Mr. KELLER'S Hotel is progressing rapidly, and will be finished and furnished ready for business by the day of sale (9th October.) It is to be no shanty, but a good, two-story, substantial building, well built and convenient for his business.

For lack of other amusement, our citizens have organized a debating society which is held every night on the Levee in front of the Herald Office. They have no light on the subject except that of the stars and the various camp fires. Notwithstanding, a lively interest is manifested and their proceedings are in a high degree orderly and respectable.

We have numerous visitors to our Town who hail from every quarter of the Union. All express their admiration of the site of Leavenworth, and their conviction that it is destined to be the metropolis of Kansas. Our old office, the Elm tree, has become one of the lions of the place, and is asked for and visited by strangers as no small curiosity. Many persons are waiting in neighboring towns for the day of sale, with the intention of buying lots. After that, many buildings will go up before the setting in of winter.

Reception of the Governor.

We have heard a general wish expressed that the citizens of this vicinity should welcome Governor Reeder on his arrival by some suitable testimonial of our regard for his eminent personal worth and the high station he will occupy among us. Such demonstration we know will meet the hearty commendation of every citizen of Kansas, and none that we can give him will be more than an honest expression of the respect we already entertain for his character as a man.

We would suggest that some early day be appointed for a meeting at this place or Fort Leavenworth for the purpose of making arrangements for such occasion.

Arrival of Governor Reeder.

A telegraphic dispatch announces that the Governor of Kansas left Easton, Pa., on the 22d inst. for this Territory via N. York. He was accompanied by the depot by a large concourse of his fellow citizens who expressed their hearty congratulations in his behalf. His Excellency will probably reach here the last of next week.

Squatter Meeting.

There was a misunderstanding of the day on which the meeting at this place was to be held. Quite a number were in town yesterday in pursuance of the notice in our paper. It seemed that the meeting was called for to-day and notice to that effect had been very generally circulated at a distance. All proceedings were therefore adjourned and the meeting will be held to-day, a very large attendance is anticipated.

Mr. Manypenny, the head of the Indian Bureau, is on a visit to the tribes on the Missouri. He spent a few days among the Delawares and has gone up the river as far as Council Bluffs. We learn that he will cross from that place to the Mississippi and visit the tribes in Minnesota before his return to Washington.

The Right of Pre-emption.

It has since 1841 been the practice of the Federal Government to grant to actual settlers upon the public lands the privilege of buying at the minimum government price the places occupied and improved by them, not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres. This policy, has been regarded as a matter of justice to the settler and of profit to the government. The men who are in the van of civilization, who take their lives in their hands and forego the comforts of civilized life, who have the resolution to dare danger and death, to fare hard and endure the thousand privations incident to frontier life are their country's benefactors and richly deserve at the hands of their Government a free gift of the homes they select. These men prepare the way for the population of territories and states, they create the settlements from which those coming after them must draw their supplies and rear up the fabric of civil government for the security of the great mass of future occupants of the soil. They must cut out roads and build bridges; they must create in the midst of the severest hardships and privations a thousand appliances without which the great mass of mankind cannot subsist. All this while they are laboring to make the public domain a merchantable commodity. When they have accomplished their task, the great tide of immigration begins, then government land is rapidly taken up and the treasury receives interest a thousand fold for the poor pittance conceded to the pioneer. Can any government be so blind to its own interest and so dead to every prompting of justice as to prefer the land shark and speculator to such a purchaser? Is it the policy of our government to favor the accumulation of large bodies of the public domain into the hands of single individuals to lie unimproved for years until its value shall be increased tenfold by the labors, public and private, of actual settlers? Yet, such has been and still is to some extent the tendency of Federal legislation. Is it strange that in such a contingency flagrant injustice on the one hand should be met by stern defiance and open resistance on the other? We would not be understood as counselling force on the part of the settlers, but would caution our law-givers to take counsel of their own knowledge of human nature and to deal justly by a class of men who have often and patiently suffered wrong. The greatest injury the Federal Government can inflict upon a young Territory is to deprive its people of the right of pre-emption. The wrong is in the ratio of the amount and desirableness of the lands over which such disability is extended. It is but a poor display of justice to grant pre-emptions on the remote outskirts and inferior lands of a territory and reserve the most accessible and choicest portion for the speculator and the savage. It is the object of every Territory to become a State as soon as its population will warrant its admission into the confederacy. As the boy is impatient of paternal restraint and longs for the hour when he can assume the franchises and responsibilities of manhood, so the Territory is eager to take its place as a Sovereign State without question from any quarter of the propriety and legitimacy of its action. As the youth needs all his energies in the contest of life, so the other will require all its resources to support a government, to foster education and to construct public works. These it cannot have if the parent government in its infancy fosters land speculation, and establishes on its fairest domain as a lasting and withering curse the permanent abode of the red man.

Towns in Kansas.
In addition to the towns mentioned in our last we have information in regard to others. Osauka is located at the crossing of the Grasshopper between Ft. Leavenworth and Fort Riley, forty miles from the Mo. River, with a good agricultural country in the vicinity. Messrs. Woodward & Marshall and a company of gentlemen of Weston have located a town at the crossing of the Big Blue on the California route which has been surveyed and a sale of lots will probably take place this fall. This will be a place of considerable importance, as it is located on United States lands that are not claimed by any Indian tribe. It must be the frontier town in Kansas for outfitting for California and the plains, it is surrounded by a rich agricultural country with plenty of timber. We also hear of a town being surveyed at the crossing of the Nemaha on the California route from Fort Leavenworth, all these places must be tributary to our city and assist in advancing our prosperity. We also understand the Messrs. Forman are laying out a town at the mouth of Independence creek which they call Doniphan city.

These are but few of the enterprises going forward in our young but giant territory, yet they show the energy and will of the sons of Kansas, a title of which is only needed in connection with her fertile soil, beautiful prairies, and rich minerals to soon make her one of the brightest jewels among the proud sisterhood of States.

The official vote at the late election for Governor of North Carolina, shows the majority for Thos. Bragg, the Democratic candidate, to be 2,935 votes.

The Administration.

Judging of the present by the past, the Administration has every reason for self congratulation in regard to the line of policy it has pursued. Cavilling, personal abuse and reprobation of the wisest public measures are not new features in our political history. Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Madison and Gen. Jackson were (if we may be allowed the expression) the best abused of all our Federal Executives, and that too for measures the wisdom of which time has abundantly vindicated. In their days, the pulpits of the North were converted into political hasting, from which rank treason was promulgated every Sabbath, where the most unbridled license was given to the tongue and where the worst passions of our nature imparted dramatic effect to the out pouring of the sanctuary. Such is the history of 1808, 1812, and 1833.

The present Administration in the faithful discharge of its delicate and arduous duties has had the misfortune to incur the wrath of no small portion of the fanatics of the North and the fire-eating ultras of the South. It is contended, and rightly, that the Kansas-Nebraska Bill was a favorite measure with the Executive, that whatever odium is chargeable upon that bill justly attaches to the Administration. At the South it is branded by the opposition press as swindle, reprobated as a freesoil measure from the stump. At the North it is held up as a monster of iniquity and its authors and prompters are denied the common right of free speech. Perhaps no measure in Federal legislation since the war bill of Madison or the veto of Jackson has gathered into a focus so many bad elements of opposition as this same wise and beneficent law. Every faction that has been broken off from the Democratic party for years, the old Federalists, the advocates of the tariff of 1812 the wails and estrays of defunct political parties, nullifiers, Maine Law and Woman's Rights men, and all the speckled progeny of fanaticism have united in one grand rally of opposition to this law, the administration and the constitution itself.

Patriotic, union-loving men every where have reason to rejoice that this controversy, if it must come, has occurred at this juncture. The helm of State is in the hands of a pilot whom no commotion, however wild, can appal, whom no danger can terrify, who knows the chart and has the resolution to carry the staunch old ship through the right channel, however beset by the malicious devices of its adversaries. The nation is tired and sick of this eternal agitation of the question of slavery—an agitation which serves no purpose but to engender bad passions, and to galvanize into an odious inportance some of the worst men of the age. It is a garbage upon which demagogues of the North and the South have for years fed and fattened, but we rejoice in the hope that it will soon be forever placed beyond their reach. With the organization of Kansas as a State, agitators will find their "occupation gone." This event, whatever may be the decision in relation to slavery, will be upon them sooner than they wish and before they can effect the work of mischief they have already commenced.

Manifest Destiny.

We live in an age of revolutions, political, social and commercial. Now and astonishing phases in this world's affairs every day turn up. Miracles wilder than the mythology of the ancients are the sober occurrences of common life. In the forty years just elapsed material civilization has made greater progress than in the ten centuries preceding. Commerce has sought out the remotest corners of the earth, and planted, not unmingled with tares to be sure, the seeds of knowledge, truth and a noble civilization. The men of the nineteenth century have already done more to improve the physical condition of the human race than all the generations that have preceded them. Old prejudices are melting away, nations separated by seemingly impassable barriers are united under a common government, heathenism is breaking its idols and mankind is fast tending to the fabled fraternity of the Golden age. The physical power and intellect of the world have turned from the work of destruction to a work of regeneration. To build up cities, to open new avenues of communication, to annihilate time and space, to accomplish in an hour what has hitherto cost days or years of toil, and to link together the whole world in a common bond of interest and fraternity is the task of the men of the nineteenth century—a task well begun and giving promise of an early completion.

In this gigantic work our own country is already a leading spirit, and her local position must soon make her the chief agent. She has extended her civilization with a rapidity unparalleled in history. Over more than half the distance from the Atlantic to the Pacific, her hardy sons have studded her soil with cities and towns and farms. Her pioneers are hastening to convert the wilds of Kansas and Nebraska, Utah and Oregon into the fruitful field. California is already a sovereign State, and within herself an empire of mighty resources—greater in commerce, in arts and civilization than Tyre of old. It is no wild speculation to suppose that before the close

of the present century the center of business and population will cross the Mississippi—that the snow cap summits of the Rocky Mountains will re-echo the shrill whistle of the locomotive—that cities and towns and villages will cluster at their base.

With no necessity for devastating wars, which destroy life, tax industry, and withdraw large bodies of men from useful labor, with a population well clad, well fed and free from the diseases incident to the densely populated cities of the old world—with no restraint upon early marriages, industry being a guarantee to man and woman of plenty and comfort, and with the vast body of immigrants who throng to our shores from the oppression and destitution of Europe—who shall say what will be our position among the nations of the earth fifty years hence! Is it unreasonable to suppose that Kansas will then be among the central States of our confederacy, and in the great highway of the commerce of China and the Indies. The Islands of the Pacific are already knocking for admission into the Union. Japan, so long isolated from all intercourse with the world has opened her ports and welcomed us to her shores. These facts point with unerring certainty to our commercial supremacy on the Pacific. Our national character and our noble institutions have there secured us advantages which European powers have for ages sought in vain.

What anticipations may we not indulge for the future of our beloved country! how manifold the reasons for preserving the integrity of that union upon which this great and growing nationality is based. How ready should we be to silence those mad fanatics and ultra agitators who would give themselves a brief importance at the expense of our country's peace and at the hazard of our union!

We have attempted above a partial outline of the most palpable features of our Manifest Destiny. Who can complete the sketch?

Public Lands in the Old States.

It may be a matter of some interest to our readers to know what disposition has been made of the public lands in the older States. In the States east of the Alleghenies, as also in Kentucky and perhaps Tennessee, it is a well known fact that no General Government Land Office was ever established. Not a dollar from the sales of lands within those States have ever gone into the Federal Treasury. It is a fact too, that the expenses of most of our wars have been defrayed from the proceeds of the sales of Western lands. Whenever the Government has been in want of money it has been customary to borrow and pledge the proceeds of Western lands as a security. The West has at the same time been paying its full proportion of the revenue derived from customs and a bonus of from thirty to one hundred percent on goods manufactured in the Eastern States. They have given to the Eastern States all the profits on importations and exportations. They have furnished greatly more than their just proportion of men for all the wars of our country since the West had an existence.

They are poor folks down East, and have hard scratching to gain a subsistence out of their sterile soil. We have been feeding them now for some years out of our abundance, buying their wooden clocks and other knick knacks, (for they are famous whittlers,) allowing them all the proceeds arising from the sales of their own lands and occasionally making among them a distribution money derived from the sales of our lands; yet if we ask a small pittance of our own or an appropriation for our noble rivers and inland seas, they manifest all the dickering, swapping, close-fisted propensities of the yankee. This remark justly applies to the whole East from Maine to Georgia, for the cavaliers of Virginia and South Carolina, are not one whit behind the wooden clock and nutmeg men of Connecticut in their niggardly policy towards the West. But let us return to our subject and state a few facts.

In 1820 when the State of Maine was established as a State independent of Massachusetts of which it had up to that time been a part, nine tenths of the territory within its jurisdiction was public land. This was equally divided between the two States, and has been sold from time to time, for the benefit of both. They still own a vast tract of valuable timber lands which will for generations continue to be a source of revenue. New Hampshire, Vermont and Connecticut, have received and are receiving the proceeds of all the lands belonging to the crown and the British proprietors at the date of the Revolution. The immense school fund of Connecticut was derived from the sale of the Western Reserve in Ohio. New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland kept all their lands. Virginia and North Carolina kept vastly more than they had ever had any civil jurisdiction over and sold the same for their own benefit. Georgia and South Carolina are in the same category. Texas retains more than all of her own lands and we besides pay some millions of her debts.

In the mean time the West has been year after year, ground and pressed, every dollar her hardy sons could gather, has been sent off to pay the debts of government, to defray the expenses of wars, to improve harbors and build light-houses on the Sea board. Our money has been taken to pay bonuses on Eastern manufactures and duties imposed for their benefit, but when we ask for a donation of lands for public works, it is only given when there is a moral certainty that the Government will make money by granting it.

They have heretofore, in their general monopoly of manufacturing for us, had the exclusive privilege of making our political platforms. They have taken very good care so to shape these as to answer their own views of expediency.

We need in Congress western men with western hearts, who know and dare maintain our rights.

Correspondence of the Kansas Herald.
A horse-back ramble through the Delaware Country—Scenery—Soil—Fruits—Creeks in general, and Stranger Creek in particular—an Indian hotel—Timber on the Kansas &c.

VALLEY OF THE KANSAS RIVER,
September 25th 1854.

EDITORS OF THE KANSAS HERALD:—I wish to place myself right with your readers on one point. An impression is quite prevalent and too well founded; I imagine, that many of the letters from foreign cities and especially from London and Paris, are written in the immediate vicinity of the papers in which they are published. Now I don't wish it to be thought that I am practicing a similar humbug, when in fact, I am nearly forty miles from your sanctum, and amid the scenes I endeavor to set forth. Shortly after leaving the city of Leavenworth, on the morning of my departure, about two miles from "Pilot Knob" I fell in with a party of nine gentlemen on their way to the New England settlement. Like myself they were on a tour of observation, and arriving just as they were leaving camp—for they had slept out in a delightful grove—I attached myself to the cavalcade. The place of their encampment is worthy of special notice, because for some distance around, the view is most tranquil and enchanting. A more agreeable place for a residence can hardly be found. It combines fertility of soil with romantic scenery. Whoever gets a homestead there will surely have a prize. As I approached it, I felt anxious to learn if any one had made a claim upon it. I was not long in suspense, for I found three men already building a cabin as the means of securing a title. This, mind you, was on the Delaware land; and I was told that all the "claims" adjoining were taken.

Our course being in a Southwest direction necessarily led us through the central portion of the Delaware country. This section appeared to be much more fertile than the eastern part, or that bordering on the Missouri. In many places the grass is over five feet high. Weeds and flowers of every hue shoot up with a luxuriance that can hardly be described. Not only is vegetation thus rank in the low land, but on the more elevated prairie the same fitness of soil is frequently observed. Here and there the curious phenomena of quick-sands appear. These are spots thickly matted with fine short grass, and which in wet seasons are miry. A little way off they remind one of the cranberry beds which dot our northern meadows. No where in the route do we lose sight of the "tall ancestral trees." The timber, I would fain call it—of Kansas grows in such varied forms, or clusters as almost to enable a careful eye to identify any section of the country. In one place you will see the edge of the forest entirely even for miles; then a cluster growing in as much order as if planted for a grove by human hands; or a collection of sturdy elms, standing in solemn majesty alone, as if sheltering the temple of an ancient oracle. Such indeed is the magnificent appearance of the woodland that a view will more than counterbalance the monotony of a tramp across the prairie.

All the native fruits of Kansas, the pawpaw is certainly the richest. Its flavor is similar to the banana which it also resembles in color. It has large seeds of the size of a coffee bean, and grows on large bowed trees about fifteen feet in height. The fruit begins to ripen in the middle of September. To some they are at first taste unpalatable on account of their condensed sweetness, for they are "sweeter than honey or the honey comb." We also noticed different species of plums. The red are most abundant, there is another kind larger of a light purple color which ripen later than the red. There are also various species of grapes and small apples. Some of the grapes are respectable in size, and agreeable in taste; but the apples, oh, how sour! fortunately they are few and far between, after biting one of them it is difficult to draw the countenance into its natural shape. I have heard a story of a man who went so far as to eat a whole one, but as I can't think your readers would believe it I won't stop to relate it.

The creeks we crossed, especially the big Stranger, are all well skirted with timber and shrubbery. They all bear witness to the severe drought. The Stranger manages to keep up a run, just enough to preserve a right of way. At the place where our trail intersected it, is an excellent mill privilege. These are rare features in the streams of Kansas, as is well known. The country along its banks, presents unsurpassed attractions for settlements. Many spots might be selected for residences, well suited to the admirer of romantic scenery. An abundance of lime stone is found in the vicinity, and it would appear from the mineral substances which protruded from the surface of the soil near the water, that coal could be discovered with but little trouble.

In travelling over so fertile and lovely a section, it is a matter of astonishment that the Indian population is so sparse. During the whole day, in which we went thirty-five miles and upwards, only four Indian houses were to be seen. At one of these, the half way house, not far beyond the Stranger we stopped to dine, and bait the horses. It was Tonge-noxeys. A large corn field well fenced in would have showed a stranger that the proprietor was a person of more than ordinary enterprise and industry for a red man. But as some of the party had before been entertained at the hotel we did not need to rely on such extrinsic evidence. Madame Tonge-noxeys in the absence of her spouse, readily made arrangements to accommodate us, although we could not speak her language, or she ours. Our horses regaled themselves on untrodden oats. One of the little Tonge-noxeys and a dog made chase after two tolerable-sized chickens which were soon overcome and slaughtered for our benefit. These, a little pork, some plain flour bread, with tea and coffee made our repast. It was very well cooked and though we had no milk nor butter (for they had no cows, notwithstanding the facilities for keeping stock,) the dinner was as agreeable as the circumstances under which it was taken were novel. We paid "four bits" each—which made no very trifling sum total and bade our intelligent and fair hostess a kind adieu.

With your permission I will now jump from the little Stranger to within five miles of the Kansas. Here is a remarkable picture. Just as we enter the noble forest stretching along the northern bed of the river, there is an excavation about as wide as the Kansas, and as deep as its usual banks, which is said to have once been the channel of the river. I can easily believe the report. The appearance of the channel—the rankness of vegetation on the bottom, its winding course—all contributed to raise the conviction that in years gone by, the rapid waters of the Kansas had plowed there.

I have been eager to notice the timber in this valley. Cotton wood is most abundant. There is besides a great amount of black walnut, oak, elm, and ash. The trees are of enormous growth. But I must confess that as I rode across that valuable bottom so opulent in its giant trees, and thought how it extended along to the river's mouth, I felt a little regret that it should be embraced in the Indian reservation, and could not for adequate compensation, even be converted into materials to aid the settler in building. When the Delawares obtain their patents individually—if they apply for them—this timber till then useless—can be purchased. Emerging from the forest near the New-England settlement we had no difficulty in fording the river, the bottom of which was found to be hard.

In my next I shall give an account of the aforesaid settlement south of the Kansas.

VIATOR.

RAILWAYS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.
—The Report of Railways for 1853 contains some note-worthy facts, illustrative of national progress. The length of the new lines of railway sanctioned by the Legislature during that year was 940 miles: 589 in England, 90 in Scotland, and 271 in Ireland. The length of railways opened up to the end of 1853 is 7,686 miles: 5,848 in England, 995 in Scotland, and 843 in Ireland. Of this number of miles, 6,965 are of the Irish gauge of 5 1/4 feet, 626 of the broad gauge, and 95 of the mixed gauge. The length of single lines of railway is 1,708 miles, 1,135 in England, 132 in Scotland, and 441 in Ireland. The length of railways in course of construction on June 30, 1853, was 682 miles, the men employed on them 37,764. The number of miles open for traffic on that day was 7,512, and the number of men employed 80,409. The number of passengers conveyed in 1852 was 89,135,729: in 1853, 102,256,660; the receipts from all sources in the corresponding years were £1,710,554 and £1,835,879, the largest proportionate increase being in the receipts from third class passengers. Looking at these returns from our point of view, this last is one of the most satisfactory of the facts they disclose. In its consequences upon the poorer classes, increased locomotion cannot but be beneficial, and the larger proportionate financial return from the class passengers, the greater their claim upon railway companies for increased facilities and accommodations.

John G. Saxe, in corresponding with his own paper, noticing the celebration at Yale, says:—"Of the poem before the Phi Beta Kappa I say nothing, as the author is the husband of my wife, and is not entitled to an opinion of his own verses."

Ten thousand dollars was the sum appropriated by the last Congress to complete the Marine Hospital at St. Louis.